



Resolution on the establishment of European Fisheries Technology Centre (EFTC).

From the Marine Resources group.

Background

In Hirtshals (Denmark), in March 2012 close to 40 persons representing research institutions from all Europe, including Turkey and Norway, participated in a workshop to prepare the launch of the European Fisheries Technology Centre (EFTC) in late June 2012.

The Centre will be located to and associated with the Hirtshals Flume Tank, a research and innovation facility which for more than 30 years has provided valuable new knowledge regarding fishing gear, aquaculture pens and other marine/maritime structures in general. A vital issue in this respect is the design of new fishing gear that makes discards unnecessary. Therefore, intensification of research and innovation on fishing gear is most timely.

The main objective for EFTC will be to contribute to more sustainable development of the European fisheries and well managed harvesting of fish stocks Strategic research and innovation and education, training and other services will be important agendas for the activities of EFTC. EFTC will also play a role as a network between research institutions/members.

The European fisheries technology scientific community is limited. The R&D activities focusing upon fishing technology have decreased in many European countries. Therefore, by coordinating and integrating the R&D activities, building complementary knowledge and infrastructure, and training new people, EFTC can develop the scientific excellence needed for keeping technology as a competitive advantage to European fishing industry.

The Strategic research and innovation agenda is based on the industrial requirements for development of sustainable fisheries in Europe like; Fishing vessel technology, Fishing gear technology, Safety for fishermen, Catch handling technology and Management/ environmental analysis and economic impact of sustainable fisheries.

Education, training and other services will include: Courses for fishermen, for control authorities, bureaucrats and politicians, for supplier companies and students. Certification and benchmarking and cooperation between training institutes around the North Sea.

The EU-2020 priorities are growth and jobs. The marine sector can contribute, this require sustainable fishing and better utilization of the marine resources. A technology strategy is a key factor for implementing "The Reform of Common Fisheries Policy" (CFP) in Europe.

Conclusions;

North Sea Commission supports the establishment of the European Fisheries Technology Centre (EFTC).

- The Marine Resources Group supports the establishment if EFTC.
- In order for the Centre to achieve its goals, the North Sea Commission recommends DG MARE to contribute to the funding of a secretary function for EFTC for a 3 year period, to contribute for the Centre to be operative as soon as possible.
- NSC looks forward to further cooperation between the EFTC and the NSC thematic groups.
- Coordination and cooperation through this new European Fisheries Technology Centre may be the start of a new impetus in research and innovation on selective fishing gear and other technology based solutions contributing to sustainable fisheries and growth in coastal societies in Europe.
- Cooperation between EFTC and other marine training institutes around the North Sea, to ensure standardised high level training of North Sea Mariners.